

Critical Capital Needs of Alabama

Public Higher Education

As prescribed by Act 79-461, Section 16-5-2(c), "...the Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the legislature and the governor of this state in respect to all matters pertaining to state funds for the operation and the allocation of funds for capital improvements of state supported institutions of higher education."

Alabama's appropriations for capital programs have been sporadic since the period of rapid expansion in the 1960's. Lacking cyclical procedures for evaluating or funding capital needs, the state has initiated capital appropriations, normally from new bond revenues, only when external events made such a move politically desirable.

This year, from the Facilities Master Plans the Commission staff has received capital requests for immediate capital projects totaling over a billion dollars. Below is a recapitulation of all the institutional requests. Appendix 1, which follows this narrative, describes the institutional requests in more detail.

SUMMARY OF IMMEDIATE CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUESTS OF ALABAMA PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION ALL INSTITUTIONS					
INSTITUTION	NEW CONSTRUCTION	FACILITIES MODIFICATION ALTERATION	RENOVATION/ MAJOR REPAIR	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	TOTAL COST OF CAPITAL REQUESTS
SENIOR & MESC/DAUPHIN ISLAND SEALAB	\$611,596,837	\$75,680,750	\$175,384,740	\$73,543,565	\$936,205,892
TWO YEAR SYSTEM	81,982,000	6,824,700	37,667,300	23,908,829	150,382,829
TOTAL	\$693,578,837	\$82,505,450	\$213,052,040	\$97,452,394	\$1,086,588,721

The Commission's funding recommendation for 2002-2003 is based solely on the estimated deferred maintenance backlog for all of public higher education. This estimate is based on the Commission's Facilities Renewal Formula.

By applying well-established facilities planning standards, state and national codes, and other professional criteria to campus facilities and enrollment data, one-third of the facilities renewal formula backlog may be viewed as critical.